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May 26, 2011

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Chief of the Section of Administration
United States Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

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Dear Ms. Brown:

Georgia Gulf Corporation understands that the Surface Transportation Board is reviewing the level of competition in the U.S. railroad system. Georgia Gulf appreciates the opportunity to register our support for increased competition on behalf of companies like Georgia Gulf, which is heavily dependent on rail shipments to move our chemicals and building products to customers across the United States and to major ports for shipment to international markets.

Georgia Gulf depends on reliable and affordable shipments of products to remain competitive – and produced in the United States – in an increasingly competitive global marketplace. We encourage the Board to revise its policies to ensure the maximum rail-to-rail competition possible in our current consolidated freight rail system, as intended by the enactment of the Staggers Rail Act.


Competition is a cornerstone of our national economy and America's freight rail policy. In fact, when the freight railroads sought enactment of the Staggers Rail Act in 1980, their primary justification for the legislation was that it was necessary to ensure competition.

Isn't it ironic, then, that the beneficiaries of the Staggers Rail Act are not U.S. companies. Rather, it is foreign products imported into our nation in containers that enjoy the benefits of rail competition while many domestic rail-dependent shippers do not when moving freight throughout the United States on the national freight rail system. American companies deserve a level playing field.

A competitive national rail system is essential to America's economic well-being. It will enable U.S. companies to provide American-made products at competitive prices, help companies create and preserve U.S.-based jobs, increase American exports and contribute to a healthy national economy.

On behalf of Georgia Gulf's 2,200 U.S. employees, I urge the Surface Transportation Board to take the lead in enhancing the level of competition in our national freight rail system. U.S. companies, American employees and the national economy all will all benefit from your support on this vital issue.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Breunig
Executive Vice President – Chemicals